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LETTER DATED 26 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following incident.

At 1200 hours on 20 February 1997 a Kuwaiti boat with five persons on board fired on Iraqi patrol boats near buoy 15. It then returned towards the Kuwaiti shore.

I request your intervention with the Government of Kuwait with a view to halting the repeated acts of aggression and provocation being committed by the Kuwaiti side in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and public international law. Such acts have the effect of creating a state of tension in the region rather than promoting its security.

In accordance with the principle of State responsibility, I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for the damage caused to its property by the unwarranted acts of provocation carried out by Kuwaiti gunboats.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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